



**METRO PARKS
AND RECREATION**



Key Accomplishments Since Jan. 2011

Parks Improvements

- Opened the new Shawnee Arts and Cultural Center Building, a newly renovated center offering specialized programming in west Louisville.
- Renovated Eva Bandman Park into new Cyclocross Venue. America's first permanent, major-city cyclocross facility, which hosted the 2013 Elite Cyclocross World Championships for the first time outside of Europe and the 2012 and 2013 Masters Cyclocross World Championships.
- Repaired and renovated pergola in Central Park
- Installed new energy-efficient, timed lighting at Central, Seneca, Joe Creason, Long Run and Blue Lick parks.
- New HVAC installed at George Rogers Clark Park and at Flaget Community Center
- Completed reconstruction of 7.6 miles of multi-use biking trails in Waverly Park
- New pavilion, additional improvements at Louisville Tennis Center in Joe Creason Park

- Began a complete renovation of North Overlook at Iroquois Park, including demolition and rebuild of the Overlook Pavilion and Switchback Trail, and new ¼ mile multi-use trail near pavilion. Overlook planned for re-opening in spring 2016.
- New renovation of Sunnyhill Pavilion and completed pond and parking lot project in Iroquois Park
- Improvements at Mary T. Meagher Aquatic Center: new HVAC system, new exercise room for revenue-generating classes; new roof, new restrooms, new filtration system (spring 2016)
- New or refurbished tennis courts: Petersburg, Central, Blue Lick, California, Highview, De Pres and Crosby parks
- New or refurbished basketball courts: Shawnee (Dirt Bowl); Chickasaw, Portland, Boone Square, California and Iroquois parks
- New or refurbished spraygrounds: LaPorte, Breslin, Nelson Hornbeck and Wyandotte parks
- New or refurbished playgrounds: Petersburg, Algonquin, Okolona, LaPorte, Beuchel, Breslin, Pee Wee, Thurman Hutchins, Shelby, Klondike, South Louisville (Community Center), Highview, Shawnee (Dream Park), California, Willow, Petersburg, Riverside Gardens
- Moved a portion of the Louisville Extreme Park due to Ohio River Bridges Project construction and made major renovations to it; renamed after former Mayor David Armstrong.
- Continued master planning process for A.B. Sawyer Greenway near Lyndon
- 10 new bicycle “fix-it” stations installed in various Metro Parks in cooperation with Scheller’s Fitness and Cycling

Forestry Division

Trees Planted

2013 406

2014 1,635

2015 (to date) 806

Trees Removed

2013 160

2014 880

2015 (to date) 489

*our goal is to maintain a 2-1 ratio on trees planted/trees removed.

Louisville Loop

- With 2.66 miles of new Loop construction from Riverside, Farnsley-Moremen Landing to Watson Lane trailhead, Loop moved to nearly 50 percent completion in 2015
- With \$1 million Center For Disease Control grant in 2011, Louisville Loop received new wayfinding signage and funding for trailhead improvements
- New trailheads: Riverside Gardens Park and Watson Lane trailhead (LG&E) Mill Creek pumping station

Historic Homes

- Completed structural analysis of Historic Locust Grove 's Croghan home with the aim of preserving it for the next 200 years
- Renovated historic chapel at Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremen Landing, including new stained-glass windows
- Repairs to pavilion, historic home site and welcome center at Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremen Landing

Volunteers

- Since 2011, approximately 31,000 volunteers have contributed 283,000 hours of service, resulting in \$6.314 million worth of improvements to Metro Parks and Recreation parks, community centers and facilities
- Our volunteer program has connected us further with the community, cementing partnerships with Humana, UPS, LG&E, GE and the University of Louisville as well as various neighborhood associations, churches and schools, who have given their time to make improvements

JMF and Natural Areas

- 2012 added 172 acres to Jefferson Memorial Forest through land acquisition
- Nearly 10 miles of new multiuse, equestrian trail construction, Paul Yost section
- Created the FOX (Families Outdoor Exploring) program to engage children and families in outdoor programming at Jefferson Memorial Forest and Metro Parks and Recreation Natural Areas
- Installed Go Ape Outdoor Adventure zipline course in Jefferson Memorial Forest, in 2015, creating a new revenue opportunity for the city
- Began Canoemobile program with Outdoor Urban Adventures, providing free canoe rides and outdoor education for families who live near in Shawnee and Riverview parks
- Expanded Louisville is Engaging Children Outdoors (ECHO) outdoor environmental education initiative to include a nature-based recreation out-of-school-time component with help from grants from Toyota and the U.S. Forest Service.
- Expanded West Louisville Recreation Initiative to include presence at West

Louisville Appreciation Days festival in 2013-15 in Shawnee Park, and further study and development of the proposed Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center in Shawnee Park

Iroquois Amphitheater

- Created Parkside Studio, a theatre site located just off-stage at the Iroquois Amphitheater that has hosted several local productions
- Boosted programming efforts at the Iroquois Amphitheater, including Metro Council-sponsored free movie nights as well as performances from national touring acts such as Billy Idol, The Black Keys, Wilco, The Decemberists, Rob Zombie, REO Speedwagon, Alice Cooper, Gregg Allman, Arctic Monkeys, Alabama Shakes, Don Williams just to name a few
- Amphitheater celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2013 with dedication of a Historical Marker and seat dedication program

Iroquois Amphitheater Total Attendance

2011 26,583

2012 39,012

2013 76,067

2014 111,867

2015 123,274

- **Attendance Per Event**

2011 571

2012 582

2013 1,019

2014 1,469

2015 1,521

- **Events**

2011 50

2012 67

2013 74

2014 76

Adapted Leisure Activities

- Began a new soccer program for power wheelchair users as well as a new deaf volleyball league
- Launched a Beep Baseball league, an adaptive version of baseball tailored for people with visual impairments
- Hosted National Wheelchair Rugby Tournament in 2013 and 2015, co-sponsored by Frazier Rehab

Specialized Youth and Arts Programming

- Added new components to Metro Parks summer camp programming: Brain Chase initiative, Sports Camp (in cooperation with University of Louisville); interactive elements with Louisville Metro Police Department, Reds Rookie Success League
- Partnered with the Louisville Visual Arts Association to bring Studio 2000 arts program to the Shawnee Arts and Cultural Center
- Louisville AMPED (Academy of Music Production Education and Development) program is now hosted at the Flaget Community Center, which was renovated in 2015 with volunteer labor and supplies from Lowe's.
- Expanded youth Reds Rookie Success and RBI Baseball leagues, operated through Metro Parks Athletics
- Began hosting Louisville Arbor Day program with several hundred kids from the Louisville ECHO Program, neighborhood schools and 10 local tree companies for a day of education and volunteerism.
- Expanded OST (Out-Of-School Time) programming for youths during fall,

winter and spring breaks at Metro Parks community centers

- Partnered with former UL player and broadcaster Robbie Valentine to bring sports youth camps to various community centers

Community Centers

- Began a partnership with Dare To Care to provide hot, nutritious meals for youths in 12 community centers throughout Louisville.
- Began new flag football and Powder Puff leagues for community centers
- Began partnership with Silver Sneakers for exercise classes/programming for senior citizens.
- Installed free wi-fi access at eight Metro Parks community centers through a program begun in 2014; plans are to expand to all sites by 2016
- New computer labs installed at Beechmont, Portland, Sun Valley and California community centers

Public-Private Partnerships

- Hosted the Louder Than Life music festival in Champions Park in 2014-15, bringing millions of dollars in economic benefit to the city of Louisville and improvements to that park from park organizers
- Began partnership with Passion For Pumpkins, Inc. in 2013, which has attracted almost 150,000 people to Iroquois Park. Revenue from the show goes towards park improvements
- Provide support to several agencies, including the Kentucky Derby Festival, Louisville Convention and Tourism Bureau, Louisville Sports Commission, University of Louisville, Bellarmine University, Spalding University, Louisville Metro Special Events, Downtown Development Corporation, Louisville Metro Police Department and Louisville Metro Fire Department, and other

Metro agencies

Golf

- More than 1 million golfers have played Metro Parks golf courses since 2011
- Host more than 1,200 youths annually for various youth golf programming
- \$70,000 worth of scholarships handed out through the Urban Youth Golf/First Tee program in the name of George G.G. Johnson
- Charlie Vettiner Golf Course was one of seven golf courses in the state of Kentucky to receive a “Certified Audubon Sanctuary” designation for quality in environmental planning from Audubon International
- More than \$1 million raised for local, regional and national charities through events held at Metro Parks and Recreation golf courses
- When PGA Championship was in Louisville in 2014, Metro Parks hosted Blessings With Backpack fundraiser, PGA Tour Wives Community project installing community garden in Shawnee Park
- \$1 million KDF Hole-In-One competition is now hosted at Seneca Park
- New clubhouse dedicated in Charlie Vettiner Park in 2011
- Completed The First Tee nine-hole youth golf course at Seneca Golf Course with \$50,000 contributed by UPS
- Continued holiday weekend golf discount program for families, as well as publication of golf discount pass book for purchase by the public for \$25

- Created first public “foot golf” course at Bobby Nichols GC in south Louisville, creating new revenue stream for course

Louisville Metro Parks Foundation

- Partnered with Passion For Pumpkins, Inc. to bring Jack O’Lantern Spectacular to Iroquois Park since 2013, providing funding for projects
- Provided \$280,000 for funding for inclusive playground in California Park in 2015
- Provided \$80,000 for new walking path and improvements in Breslin Park in 2012
- Provided more than \$30,000 in funding for tree planting projects for Metro Parks Forestry Division

Additional

- Metro Parks and Recreation honored at the “Outstanding Business of the Year’ by the Louisville Education and Employment Partnership in 2012
- Metro Parks Athletics received a Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society Award for Outstanding Department, and outstanding contributions to the Leisure Profession for 2011
- Metro Parks Athletics staff are certified clinicians to train JCPS elementary school coaches, Metro Parks staff and volunteers in the field of youth athletic coaches
- Partnered with Metro Health and Wellness to post 15 no-smoking signs in pools and playgrounds throughout Louisville to encourage a healthier community in 2014

- Chef Edward Lee partnered with Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation to bring family cooking classes to the Shawnee Arts and Cultural Center during 2013